

Volunteer State Community College
Pilot of General Education Assessment
Results 2002-2003

Volunteer State Community College administered the Academic Profile long form to a 10% random sample of first-time degree seeking students (fall 2002 term) as a pre-test during fall 2002. 1,143 first-time freshmen enrolled. Of this number, 279 or 24% sat for the Academic Profile long form upon initial entry into the institution. Students took the exam during the first month of enrollment to ensure experiences at Volunteer State did not impact the results. The institution over sampled the entering first-time freshmen class in order to ensure that there would be a sufficient number of students completing 50 or more hours over the next two years.

The students completing 50 or more hours by 2004-2005 will be required to sit for the Academic Profile long form as a post-test. This will provide information to the institution concerning gain scores of students and will permit comparisons of these results with those achieved by students who sit for the short form upon completing graduation requirements.

Results of Pre -Tested Population: A review of the composition of the sample population of first-time freshmen drawn for the pilot indicates that the sample was representative of the total first-time freshmen enrollment for fall 2002. Analysis of age indicates that the sample consisted of 90% of the students being 29 or less in age compared to the total population of 89.5%. Ethnicity composition was similar with the majority of the sample being white followed by African Americans. 77.8% of the sample was enrolled on a full-time basis while the entire first-time freshmen class was represented by 75.5%. From this analysis, the institution concluded that the sample of first-time freshmen for pre-test purposes was representative of the entire first-time freshmen class and would therefore be valid for post-testing in 2004-2005.

The institution conducted a preliminary analysis of the results of the pilot population to ascertain the preparation of the entering freshmen class. A comparison of mean scores achieved by the sample population to the graduating class of 2002-2003 revealed that students entering the institution scored 11 points below those graduating. The greatest differences in skill subscores was in the area of reading where the entering class scored approximately 6 points below those of the graduating class. A more indepth review of the results revealed that entering students were far weaker in the reading level 1 area than graduates. This is an indication that the institution is very strong in preparing students in the area of reading. Part of the success can be attributed to the preparation offered to students through remedial and developmental courses. The institution will continue to monitor success in reading and will pay close attention to the posttest results of the first-time freshmen class in order to ensure that students continue to make gains in reading.

Additional Actions: Posttest scores for the entering freshmen class of 2002 will not be available until 2004-2005. The institution will monitor graduate success with the Academic Profile with special attention to reading level 1 scores. The results of the

Academic Profile of the pilot population and the graduating class will be shared with the faculty during fall 2003 division meetings. Faculty will review these results and become familiar with the content areas within the level 1 reading area. Test questions, as called for in the institutions action plans and benchmarks, will be reviewed to identify any required curriculum changes. In addition, Volunteer State will monitor the curriculum revisions made as a result of the TBR Defining Our Future project where institutions were required to review and revise, when necessary, the entire general education core.